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SIPDIS

ISN FOR RANA AND MAHAFFEY, IO FOR GOLDSTEIN, EAP FOR KELLY AND JOHNSON

E.O. 12958: DECL: 04/14/2033 TAGS: <u>AORC IAEA KN KNNP</u>

SUBJECT: IAEA/DPRK: INSPECTORS ASKED TO LEAVE NORTH KOREA

REF: A. 08 UNVIE 553

**B. 08 UNVIE 521

Classified By: AMBASSADOR GREGORY L. SCHULTE FOR REASONS 1.4 (B) AND (D)

- 11. (C) DDG for Safeguards Olli Heinonen informed the Mission on April 14 that IAEA inspectors at Yongbyon were asked to leave North Korea "as early as possible." North Korea asked the inspectors to remove Agency seals from Yongbyon facilities (approximately 100 seals at the reprocessing facility, and others at the reactor and fuel fabrication facility.) Heinonen indicates this will take more than one day to accomplish, and the IAEA wants to remove the seals itself (rather than leave to DPRK) to confirm the status of facilities as of today. The IAEA will probably notify the Board this evening (via GOV/INF) that North Korea has requested the IAEA leave Yongbyon. As of close of business, the draft GOV/INF was with the Director General. Mission will forward when available.
- 12. (C) Comment: Heinonen will probably attempt to drag his feet in pulling out his inspectors in hopes of the situation evolving, as was the case in October 2008 when North Korea last threatened to kick out the inspectors. The inspectors lost access to Yongbyon facilities from October 9 14, 2008 (see reftels). SCHULTE